

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
-----012670 010654Z /12

R 301906Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2430
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH CHRISTIAN WORKERS CONFEDERATION CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY: THE FRENCH CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN WORKERS HAS HELD A QUIET CONGRESS. THE DELEGATES CONFIRMED THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP AND ITS POLICIES, AND THE UNION IS NOW WAITING TO SEE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT. END SUMMARY.

2. FROM NOVEMBER 25 THROUGH 27, THE FRENCH CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN WORKERS (CFTC) HELD ITS 39TH CONGRESS. THE DELEGATES, MEETING AT VERSAILLES, GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT TO THEIR LEADERSHIP AND ITS POLICIES. A LIST OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE OF THE 225,000 MEMBER CONFEDERATION, WHICH INCLUDES

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THE REELECTED PRESIDENT TESSIER AND GENERAL SECRETARY BORNARD, WILL BE FORWARDED BY AIRGRAN.

3. THE MAIN THEMES THAT EMERGED DURING THE CONGRESS' PROCEEDINGS, ASIDE FROM A GENERAL CONCERN OVER UNEMPLOYMENT, WERE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND TEACHERS UNION POSITIONS ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS;

AND ON THE WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE CFTC TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF PERCEIVED SPREADING WORKER DISSATISFACTION WITH POLITICAL UNIONISM. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE DELEGATES, IN ONE OF THE FEW SURPRISES TF THE CONGRESS, CHANGED A LEADERSHIP POLICY STATEMENT CALLING FOR CLOSE "COOPERATION WITH FO, THE CGC, AND THE AUTONOMOUS UNIONS" TO A MORE GENERALIZED STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER UNIONS. THIS VOTE WAS NOT AN EXPRESSION OF ANY PRO-CGT, STILL LESS PRO-CFDT OR FEN SENTIMENTS (THOSE THREE UNIONS ARE HEARTILY DISLIKED, EACH FOR DIFFERENT REASONS), BUT RATHER OF THE GRASS ROOTS' RIVALRY TOWARDS THE OTHER REFORMIST UNIONS, AND PARTICULARLY FO. AS SUCH IT WAS MORE A GESTURE WHICH WILL NOT AFFECT THE CFTC'S RELATIONS WITH FO. PREDICTABLY, THERE WAS NO SUPPORT FOR JOINING THE CGT-FFDT FEN LED DECEMBER 1 NATIONAL STRIKE (SEE PARIS 34699), AND NO MOTION TO ENDORSE THE UNION OF THE LEFT.

4. ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE CFTC'S ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND TO ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH OTHER CHRISTIAN UNIONS OVERSEAS. IN THIS CONNECTION, GENERAL SECRETARY BORNARD POINTEDLY REGRETTED THAT THE CFT'S RPT CFDT'S "BLACKMAIL" HAS UP UNTIL NOW KEPT THE CFTC OUT OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BORNARD MADE NO PUBLIC REFERENCE TO IT, HE AND MANY OF THE OTHER CFTC LEADERS ARE FOLLOWING WITH CLOSE ATTENTION THE EVOLUTION OF THE FFDT'S RPT CFDT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WCL, AND PARTICULARLY THE RUMORS THAT IT IS ABOUT TO LEAVE THAT ORGANIZATION; THEREBY PRESUMABLY OPENING THE DOOR FOR THE CFTC TO BECOME A MEMBER. (THE CFTC PRESENTLY IS ISOLATED, INTERNATIONALLY, AS WAS REFLECTED IN THE VERY MODEST FOREIGN REPRESENTATION AT THE CONGRESS.) SUBSEQUENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN A PRESS REPORT THAT THE CFDT TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION HAS PULLED OUT OF THE WCL TRANSPORT SECRETARIAT AND APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION; AND WE AGAIN HAVE BEEN TOLD, PRIVATELY, BY A CFDT LEADER THAT HIS UNION IS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE WCL 'SEE ALSO PARIS 405 0-48 32700). HARTMAN

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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